

components. Thus, the functionality of the servers may be combined or distributed in any number of ways to facilitate deployment.

2. Architecture

Fig. 2 is a diagram of an embodiment of a representative functional architecture for use in the system and method. Using the system and method, the user has access to a home page 50. From the home page 50, a user can invoke Search 52 and Build 54 functions and may be able to invoke an Administration function 56. The Search function 52 is used to search current courses and content stored in the system.

The Build function 54 is used to create courses and content. As part of the Build function 54, the user may access a Course Page 60, Topic Page 62, Concept Page 64 or Learning Object 66. A Course Page 60 is used to record certain information when creating a course. A course can be broken down into topics. A Topic Page 62 is used to record certain information when creating a topic. A topic can be broken down into concepts. A Concept Page 64 is used to record certain information when creating a concept. A concept can be broken down to objects (the smallest unit of information stored in the system). A Learning Object Page 66 is used to record certain information when creating an object. There are a number of

types of Learning Objects used in the system and method. For example, Learning Objects may include Special 68, Text 70, Contributor 72, Quiz 74, Link 76, and Tab/Lists 78 Learning Objects.

5 A Special Learning Object 68 is used to create a unique Learning Object for a Specialized purpose. A Text Learning Object 70 is used to collect text, images, attachments and quotes to convey a single idea. A Contributor Learning Object 72 is used to provide information regarding the author of
10 contributing material. A Quiz Learning Object 74 is used to create a test. A Link Learning Object 76 is used to add a Link to other material. A Tab/Lists Learning Object 78 is used to display information to the learner in a dynamic fashion.

15 Once the user has completed the creation of a course or parts of a course, he can Classify 80 Learning Objects using the defined categories to enable users to more easily search for those Learning Objects on the system. The user can also record his progress by updating a Workflow 82 Module, which is used to maintain a record of work done by the user on the various
20 projects that are his responsibility.

 Some users of the system and method will have the authority access to the Administration 56 function to perform administrative tasks. Some of those administrative tasks

include Series Page 58, Add New User 84, Curriculum Category Maintenance 86, Taxonomy Maintenance 88, Expire/Delete 90, and File Maintenance 92.

The Series page 58 is used to group related courses that define a curriculum or level of competency in a particular subject matter area. A administrator can create a Series by entering on the Series Page the courses defining the curriculum, for example, the titles of the courses, and titles, introduction or descriptive Text for the series. The administrator can determine which courses to include in the Series using the search function.

Using Add New User 84, a new user may be added to the system. Using Curriculum Category Maintenance 86 certain courses can be grouped together to define a curriculum group and curriculum groups may be added, deleted or modified. Using Taxonomy Maintenance 88 course details pertaining to core categories and the subject areas that are assigned to a certain competency level can be added, removed, renamed, and/or modified. Using Expire/Delete 90 content on the system can be searched, previewed, expired (i.e. removed from a given course, but not deleted) and/or deleted. Using File Maintenance 92 files that are needed by authors to create courses can be